

Dear ECCR members, partners and friends

In this e-newsletter:

Corporate engagement and advocacy

- Dialogue with supermarkets on Israeli settlement goods: take action today
- House of Lords debate on migrant workers; briefing from ECCR
- Mining: ECCR partner alleges Philippines government undermines indigenous rights
- Launch of 2009 BHP Billiton 'alternative report', 27 October, London
- Uzbek cotton and forced child labour webinar, 19 November
- New Christian Aid report on the private sector and development

Responsible and sustainable investment

- UK fund managers and climate change: FairPensions report
- ECCR co-signs letter to Lord Myners urging mandatory voting disclosure
- Oikocredit announces results of social audit
- News from EIRIS

Events

- Niger Delta consultation, 21 October, House of Commons, London
- Christian Council for Monetary Justice open forum and AGM, 31 October, London
- Faiths, the Environment and Copenhagen, 4 November, London
- National Ethical Investment Week, 8-14 November; ECCR/UKSIF guide for church groups
- The Future of Banking, ECCR debate, 19 November, London: prompt registration recommended
- How will the recession impact corporate social responsibility? JustShare debate, 8 December, London
- A World in Waiting - Advent hope in a time of economic crisis, from CTBI

ECCR announcements

- Members' Annual Meeting, 19 November, London
- ECCR Annual Report 2008/9 now available online
- A welcome to new members
- ECCR Board changes
- *Beyond Reach?* A novel by ECCR member John Madeley
- Business & Human Rights Resource Centre seeks research interns

Corporate engagement and advocacy

Dialogue with supermarkets on Israeli settlement goods: take action today

As we reported last month, ECCR and corporate member Quaker Peace & Social Witness have written to eleven British and Irish supermarket chains to highlight concerns about goods produced in Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories. Our initial dialogue has shown that while many supermarkets are aware of this issue, only two have to date fully adopted a policy not to source produce originating in the settlements. [Read a summary of our findings to date](#). Take action - [contact supermarkets and draw their attention to concerns about settlement goods](#). More information is available from [Suzanne Ismail](#) (tel. 020 7663 1055).

House of Lords debate on migrant workers; briefing from ECCR

ECCR's Patron, Lord Harries of Pentregarth (former Bishop of Oxford), is due to lead a House of Lords debate on 27 October 2009 about the position of migrant workers in the UK economy, informed by ECCR's 2009 report [Vulnerable Migrant Workers](#). ECCR's briefing note on measures that UK organisations are advocating to enhance the protection of migrant workers' rights can be obtained from [Sunniva Taylor](#) (tel. 020 7663 1047).

Mining: ECCR partner alleges Philippines government undermines indigenous rights

ECCR's Working Group on Mining in the Philippines partner PIPLinks presented visiting Philippine President Arroyo with a letter referring to findings from the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and criticising her administration for favouring mining companies at the expense of ethnic minorities. ECCR donor-partner CAFOD, which also partners PIPLinks, backed the allegations, saying that on paper the Philippines government gives its indigenous peoples legal protection, 'but legislation is not being enforced and there are countless examples of these rights being violated'. CAFOD's Unearth Justice campaign is helping indigenous communities exercise their constitutional right to give or withhold 'free, prior and informed consent' for mining on their lands. [Read more](#).

Launch of 2009 BHP Billiton 'alternative report', 27 October, London

[London Mining Network](#) and groups in Australia, the Philippines, Canada and the USA are working on an alternative report on mining giant BHP Billiton and will launch it at Amnesty International UK's Human Rights Action Centre ([directions](#)) with speakers from Colombia affected by the company's joint venture Cerrejon coal mine. All are welcome. Tuesday 27 October 2009, 2 pm. BHP Billiton's AGM will take place two days later.

Uzbek cotton and forced child labour webinar, 19 November

ECCR has reported on a multi-stakeholder initiative to address forced child labour in Uzbek cotton production. Tesco, Marks & Spencer, C&A, Asda and Benetton have agreed not to source Uzbek cotton until the practice ends; other European brands are being approached. On Thursday 19 November 2009 at 2 pm GMT / 3 pm CET, [As You Sow](#) and partners will host a webinar highlighting environmental and social risks associated with Uzbek cotton production and discuss steps responsible and faith-based investors, retailers and brands can take to help eliminate the Uzbekistan's mass-mobilisation of forced child labour. The webinar aims to foster dialogue between European and US stakeholders. More information/registration: [Dan Fibiger](#) (tel. +1 (415) 391 3212 x 45).

New Christian Aid report on the private sector and development

ECCR corporate member and donor-partner Christian Aid's new report examines how different parts of the private sector can contribute to development. [Getting Back on the Rails](#) argues that developing country governments must be able to make the right policies, introduce the right regulations, and build the right institutions to strengthen the private sector's contribution to development. Foreign donors must stop forcing Washington Consensus policies of deregulation, liberalisation and privatisation onto developing countries. The report makes specific recommendations for the private sector beyond meeting its basic legal responsibilities with a view to helping meet the needs of poor people.

Responsible and sustainable investment

UK fund managers and climate change: FairPensions report

ECCR corporate member FairPensions has released a new report on fund managers and climate change to launch a major capital markets campaign driven by the need to move towards a low-carbon

economy. Based on responses from 39 UK fund managers responsible for an estimated £6 trillion, the report shows that most regard climate change as an important or very important investment issue but are prevented from taking action by short-termism and lack of demand from pension funds and other clients. The research reveals a strong appetite for regulations requiring companies to report and reduce emissions. [Preparing for the Storm? UK fund managers the risks & opportunities of climate change](#)

ECCR co-signs letter to Lord Myners urging mandatory voting disclosure

FairPensions, the TUC, ActionAid, the Local Authority Pension Fund Forum, PIRC and ECCR have written to Lord Paul Myers, Financial Services Secretary to the Treasury asking the UK government to use reserve powers under the Companies Act to compel institutional shareholders with over £500m in assets to publicly disclose how they have voted on all resolution at UK-listed companies each year. The letter argues that the financial crisis and the failure of many asset managers to report voluntarily make this necessary to improve accountability both to clients and to the wider public. The outcomes of asset managers' voting impact on society at large in such areas as directors' remuneration and environmental policy.

Oikocredit announces results of social audit

ECCR corporate member and leading private investor in microfinance Oikocredit has released the results of its social audit, the first of its kind. For Oikocredit and its subscribers, it is essential to know that investments of some €370 million lead to positive changes in the lives of the working poor. Its latest innovation is not only to look at the performance of the microfinance institutions but also to undertake a social audit of private financiers. Using the outcome from this audit, Oikocredit plans to update its social performance procedures and further develop its outreach strategy, products and services. [Social audit summary](#). Oikocredit's [Social Performance Centre](#). More information from [Patrick Hynes](#) (tel. 01995 602806).

News from EIRIS

Latest research from ECCR donor-partner the EIRIS Foundation's Charity Project and the Charity Finance Directors Group finds that 87% of UK charities with an ethical investment policy report that their financial adviser has asked them about incorporating ethical issues within their investments. However, for charities without an ethical investment policy, only 43% said their adviser has asked about ethical investment. Over 90% of the general public believe that charities should invest ethically, but practice still falls a long way short. [Full report](#).

Ninety per cent of wealth managers say responsible investment (RI) portfolios have performed as well as or better than other investments, according to a new EIRIS report *Responsible Investment and Wealth Management: Opportunities for the future*. The report, published in association with wealth management newswire WealthBriefing and private bank Kleinwort Benson, explodes the myth that responsible investments under-perform, identifies growing awareness of environmental, social and governance issues, and finds that the financial crisis has had a positive effect wealth managers' view towards RI. The report is available from WealthBriefing (Philip Harris, tel. 020 7610 8104).

Events

Niger Delta consultation, 21 October, House of Commons, London

A consultation on the Niger Delta takes place at the House of Commons on Wednesday 21 October 2009, 10.30 am – 12.30 pm. Organised by incoming ECCR Board member Bishop Doyé Agama of the Apostolic Pastoral Association as part of UK Black History Month, the event is hosted by Rt Hon. Lord

Anderson of Swansea, Rt Rev. Nigel McCullough, the Bishop of Manchester, and others and will look at the contribution of church-based organisations to solutions in Black, Asian and other Minority Ethnic communities within the UK and how such communities can become development bridges to related areas internationally. ECCR will present findings from its forthcoming case study report on Shell in the Niger Delta. For further details please contact [Bishop Doyé Agama](#).

Christian Council for Monetary Justice open forum and AGM, 31 October, London

ECCR corporate member the [Christian Council for Monetary Justice](#) meets on Saturday 31 October 2009 at the John Marshall Hall, Christchurch, 27 Blackfriars Road, London SE1, from 11 am - 3 pm (including BYO lunch; beverages provided) with an open forum on the place of money and banking in society today. Bishop Peter Selby, CCMJ's President, will be present from 12 noon. CCMJ's AGM will follow from 3 pm to 4 pm. RSVP /enquiries: tel. 020 7207 0509.

Faiths, the Environment and Copenhagen, 4 November, London

Join with people of all faiths to celebrate the commitment of faith communities to care for the environment. 'Many Heavens, One Earth' will feature presentations from Olav Kjørven, UN Assistant Secretary-General; Sheikh Ali Gomaa, Grand Mufti of Egypt; and Nigel Savage, founder of Jewish green charity Hazon; as well as song and dance. Supported by ARC, the Methodist International Centre, the Religious Society of Friends and UNDP. Registration free but essential. Wednesday 4 November 2009, 7.00 - 9.00 pm (doors open 6.00 pm). [More details](#) - or drop into the new Quaker Centre at Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Contact: [Alison Prout](#) (tel. 020 7663 1035).

National Ethical Investment Week, 8-14 November; ECCR/UKSIF guide for church groups

The second [National Ethical Investment Week](#) (NEIW), a co-operative campaign promoting green and ethical investment options and involving advisers, charities and trusts, financial organisations, faith groups, NGOs and community groups, takes place from 8 to 14 November 2009. ECCR has worked with NEIW co-ordinators UKSIF to produce a downloadable [Action Guide for Church Groups](#) with ideas for worship, displays, newsletter articles and letters to the local press. ECCR members have received a printed copy. Others can request one from [Helen Boothroyd](#) (tel. 01325 580028); please include name, church and mailing address. NEIW is co-sponsored by ECCR corporate member CCLA.

The Future of Banking, ECCR debate, 19 November, London: prompt registration recommended

Confirmed panel speakers for ECCR's 2009 open debate, which will explore issues of banking, ethics and sustainability, are: Edward Mason, Ethical Investment Advisory Group of the Church of England; Nick Robins, HSBC Climate Change Centre of Excellence; Kevin Smith, Platform and BankTrack; and James Vaccaro, Triodos Bank. Chair: Lord Harries of Pentregarth (former Bishop of Oxford). Thursday 19 November 2009, 4.30 - 6.15 pm, Friends House, Small Meeting House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Entrance free. Wheelchair access. Nearest stations Euston or Euston Square. Places are filling up fast. To register, please contact [Miles Litvinoff](#) (tel. 020 8965 9682). [Further details](#).

How will the recession impact corporate social responsibility? JustShare debate, 8 December, London

Will a new way of doing business emerge with the 'green shoots of recovery?' Are companies investing more in CSR as they seek to demonstrate their ethical credentials - or will the recession lead to cuts in this area? JustShare debate with Professor Jeremy Moon (Director of the International

Centre for CSR) and Nick Wright (Head of Community Affairs, UBS). Chair: Revd Paul Zaphiriou (Bishop's Adviser on CSR). Tuesday 8 December 2009, 1.05 – 2.00 pm, St Mary-le-Bow Church, Cheapside, London EC2V 6AU Entrance free, and all are welcome. Followed by free Fairtrade drinks. [Further details](#).

A World in Waiting - Advent hope in a time of economic crisis, from CTBI

Following the global financial crisis, hope is in short supply and needs to be rebuilt. And that is what Advent is all about - a season to take seriously the plight of 'those who dwell in darkness' but also to awaken a longing and commitment to a better and different kind of world. Churches Together in Britain and Ireland has produced [web-based resources](#) including reflections, liturgical ideas, prayers and pointers to action.

ECCR announcements

Members' Annual Meeting, 19 November, London

ECCR's Members' Annual Meeting takes place on Thursday 19 November 2009 from 2.30 to 3.30 pm at Friends House, London, followed by our open debate on The Future of Banking. The meeting will receive ECCR's Annual Accounts and is an opportunity for members and donor-partners to meet ECCR's Board and Secretariat team, review work over the past year and input into future plans. Members and partners will receive an invitation this month. We look forward to seeing you.

ECCR Annual Report 2008/9 now available online

ECCR's Annual Report for 2008/9 is now available at www.eccr.org.uk/AboutUs.

A welcome to new members

ECCR extends a warm welcome to new corporate members USPG: Anglicans in World Mission and to recently joining individual members.

ECCR Board changes

ECCR warmly welcomes to its Board Bishop Doyé Teido Agama representing corporate member the Apostolic Pastoral Association.

Stan Lee of corporate member the Religious Society of Friends, who has served as ECCR's Company Secretary in recent years, is standing down from the Board on his appointment as a Trustee of ECCR's donor-partner the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. We offer Stan our sincere appreciation for his service to ECCR and very best wishes for his new role.

***Beyond Reach?* A novel by ECCR member John Madeley**

After writing nine factual books on development issues, journalist and author John Madeley tells the story of the Make Poverty History campaign in a novel way. Set in 2005, the book's fact-cum-fiction plot exposes government duplicity through a witty story of a relationship between campaigners. It tells, for example, how the UK government's claims about debt relief were far from all they seemed - developing countries had to eliminate impediments to private investment, opening up their markets to foreign companies; and the government continued to push corporate deregulation. *Beyond Reach?* is available from [John Madeley](#) (tel. 01189 476063). [More details](#).

Business & Human Rights Resource Centre seeks research interns

The Business & Human Rights Resource Centre has launched recruitment for research interns and legal research interns at its London office. Deadline for applications 28 October. Minimum internship period 4 months full-time or 8 months half-time for research Interns; 3.5 months full-time or 7 months half-time for legal research interns. [Read more.](#)

With all good wishes.

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ECCR is a company limited by guarantee in England & Wales (No. 2764183) and a Body in Association with Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

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ECCR's monthly e-newsletter reaches more than 400 people with an interest in corporate and investor responsibility, economic justice and environmental sustainability. It is circulated midway through every month except August. Members and partners are welcome to submit brief news items for inclusion.

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